

# Top of the Hill

Volume 7, Number 3

MBA Junior School

March 2002

## Phillip Simpson: A West Point Success

By John Michael Simpson

Everyone at MBA knows a little bit about Phillip Simpson's wrestling technique on the mat. Most everyone knows that he is at West Point, but you may not know how he is doing. Ever since the first day of school, he has "hit the books" and adapted to his new environment like most of the seventh graders have had to do.

While most people were at the beach this summer, he was at boot camp getting physically and mentally prepared for his new life as a cadet at the United States Military Academy in New York. He has given his family new stories that are funny, embarrassing, and some that are exhausting. The first was at the



Acceptance Day Parade. "We were back from boot camp, or 'Beast' as we call it, were halted, and stood in formation while a speech was being delivered. I noticed a spider crawling up the back of the new cadet in front of me, but the spider didn't stop until it reached his ear. Then it jumped down to his shoulder and repeated this process. I realized that the spider was making a web, and I struggled to hold back a laugh. I wondered how the cadet could remain so still! If a cadet makes the slightest movement without permission, a vicious, frustrated, and raging upperclassman will get in the face of the scared, overwhelmed, and confused cadet."

Another incident also during boot camp occurred when Phillip and

*Continued on the next page*

## 70's Mixer

**Healthy Man Can't Get No  
Dancin' at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>  
Grade Mixer**

By Scott Hearn

Pity - it's a beautiful thing. Especially for those who know how to milk it for all it's worth. If you were in or around the small gym between 7:30 to 9:30 on the first Friday of March, you may have noticed a recurring theme: hardly any healthy, two-legged, climate-appropriate-dressed young men were dancing. Under further examination, it became evident that the only mixer patrons that were hitting the dance floor either had a physical ailment or an interesting wardrobe selection. Having been in both "predicaments" with a broken arm and surgically repaired

knee as well as dressed up as a Harpeth Hall-er for past mixers, I could fully understand what kind of pain and torture these men had to endure. Frequent questions by hordes of girls and many "Let's dance to see if you can even though you're injured," 's or



*Jillian wanted two scoops.*

"Tell me why you're dressed so funny while we dance," 's can be overwhelming at times. A broken-

legged pity seeker at the mixer responded to my questioning by making it absolutely clear that pity might have drawn attention to him, but that not all of his appeal was based on it. "It's like ice cream," he said. "Once the ladies got a taste of it they all wanted a double scoop." The other desperate male, decked out in his favorite Army fatigues and camouflaged hunting apparel, gave a one-word response when asked to explain his attention drawing spectacle. "Casual," he said. Spoken like a true Dicksonian. So, here's to you Pity Players, may we all follow in your hallowed footsteps. Play on Playas. (Especially Tommy Corts and his great babe gettin' outfit. It was da bomb.)

As for the rest attending the mixer, they had a great time talking and eating great food. Thanks to all the mothers who have helped make this year of mixers great!

# FEATURES

Continued from the front page  
another cadet had to carry a person

pretending to be hurt across a barbed wire field. Phillip remembers, "Once me and my partner were put up to the drill of carrying an 'injured' cadet across the field and into safety. We picked our man up and hurried on out of the way, tripping and getting our clothes torn. The fact that we were taking our man to 'safety' was

wrong since we dropped him on the wire several times. Our bodies were scratched and weak, and our clothes were torn, but I couldn't complain after what we put the injured man through."

Phillip was once a boy in seventh grade facing the challenges of his first year at MBA, but instead of feeling down and miserable about the rough times, he took his classes as challenges and kept going. He is now facing additional challenges with college courses, military training, and wrestling on a new level.

While adjusting to being a freshman, Phillip has also been doing an excellent job on the wrestling mat. As a recent article from the Army's sports' website reported:

"The Nashville, Tenn. native has been a machine in his first two months in the college realm, disposing

of opponents with such routine flair, that three pins in a one-day tournament are

no longer considered a wonderment, but rather standard practice. In his short time donning the 'Black, Gold, and Gray,' Simpson has amassed a record of 27-3, including a staggering 14 pins. Simpson's penchant for making quick work of the opposition has led to Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (E I W A) 'Wrestler of the Week' accolades



The King of the Mat, Phillip Simpson

twice."

"I don't care for seven-minute matches," laughs Simpson. "I like pinning." A week after being named Most Outstanding Wrestler at the prestigious Virginia Duals, Simpson displayed his heroic ability at the New York State Intercollegiate Championships. The Black Knights trailed third-place Buffalo by five-and-one-half points entering the last match of the championship finals. Simpson was Army's last hope for a top-three finish, and only a pin would vault the Black Knights ahead of the Bulls in the team standings. Once again, the 141-pound phenom rose to the occasion, forcing UB's Ryan Bentley to succumb by fall in 6:12, propelling Army past Buffalo.

Phillip ended the season one match away from placing in the NCAA.

## Thespianation

By Eric Hagemeyer

On the weekend of February 28-March 3, four MBA seniors, Brian Chandler, Tommy McGinn, Deke Shearon, and Evan Hagemeyer directed four hand-selected plays. As I gathered from my brother's absence at dinner every night, there was much effort put into these performances. Each of them was excellent. The first was *Vint* by David Mamet, directed by Brian Chandler, a play about four high-level executives playing poker with identity dossiers when their boss (Christopher Schuller) walks in and questions what they are doing. The irony occurs when the boss becomes intrigued by their game and joins them. My impression of the play was overshadowed by its surprising brevity. I felt that five minutes was not really enough to express what was meant in the story. However, if morals are your bag, then Evan Hagemeyer's play, *The Exception and the Rule* by Bertolt Brecht, was the one for you. In the story, a go-getter merchant (Zach Wall) traveling to the city of Erga to earn a concession on an oil-rich piece of land encounters difficulty when he begins to suspect the coolie (Andy Gray) who is carrying his supplies of conspiring against him. An additional character, the guide (KayT Malone), sides with the coolie because she is of his same class and does not appreciate the merchant's condescending attitude toward them. Eventually, the guide loses her job, and the coolie and merchant are left to their own devices to reach Erga. On the way, however, the coolie offers the merchant his

Continued on the next page



# FEATURES

*THE SPIA-NATION* from last page canteen, and mistaking it for a rock to be used in attacking him, the merchant shoots and kills the coolie. At the ensuing trial, it is obvious that the judge (Bill Frazier) favors the merchant in all gray areas and ends up acquitting him of the murder of the coolie. Regardless of the judge's opinion of whether the merchant did it or not, he rules instead on the idea that the merchant had reason to suspect that the coolie would attack him due to the class difference. I would have to say that the most surprising event of the play was not the ruling, but the part where Bill Frazier stands up and starts rapping his final decision. The third play, *Action*, written by Sam Shepard and directed by Tommy McGinn, was a testament to nonsense. In the performance, four characters, Shooter (James Fuqua), Jeep (Kevin Kush), Lupe (Jessica Turk), and Liza (Ellen Fuson) interact with each other in the strangest of ways. Shooter is a lonely, frightened child with an odd imagination that takes him to such roles as a bear. He also has an interesting interaction with the armchair in which he is sitting. Jeep is the strangest of tough-guys who loves to talk about Walt Whitman and the Civil War. At several points he becomes enraged and breaks two chairs. Lupe is very hyperactive and becomes frantic over small things, such as losing the page in their book. Finally, Liza is the mother figure who does not have much stage time but seems to be the most normal of all of them. Overall, *Action* is a high-energy play that makes the viewer laugh at how their conversations do not make sense, which is what Sam Shepard

**"No Exit is one of the best plays I have seen in a long while."**

intended. The fourth and final play, *No Exit*, which was directed by Deke Shearon, is one of the best plays I have seen in a long while. The play is set in Hell (capitalized because, well, Detroit is capitalized...) where three people are locked in a room with only a window that looks back to earth. This isolation may not seem like much of a punishment, but these three people are so much alike, yet so different, that they act as

tormentors for each other, so Hell is only what they create for themselves. The three main characters, Cradeau (Benjamin Pote), Inez (Jessica Malone), and Estelle (Cornelia Rowe) each torture each other by playing to

their desires, but then realizing that they can never really have what they want out of each other in the end. Inez and Estelle first come together as Estelle says she wants a mirror to look at herself because she is very vain, and Inez acts as this mirror, but they find out that because they are women, they cannot find love from each other. The second relationship, between Estelle and Cradeau, occurs because Estelle is tired of Inez. But eventually, he realizes that she reminds him very much of his wife whom he treated very badly. The third and final relationship is between Cradeau and Inez, after he tries to pry the door of the room open but finds that none of the three can leave because they are naturally inseparable. What I found interesting about the three characters is that in every situation, the other two acted as characters from one person's former life. Sartre's existentialist ideas are no doubt very complicated, and seeing it would have made it much clearer, but I hope I have enlightened you to this

great work. Overall, I would have to say that *No Exit* was my favorite (sorry, Evan), but without a doubt, they were all excellent, so congratulations to all the directors and actors!

## Latin Blues

By Justin Hall

Many eighth graders have trouble with Latin because it is their first year to take it. The strange thing is that many teachers who do not teach the subject also have trouble with it. I asked Mr. Brown a few questions in Latin, and he answered to the best of his ability (without help from a Latin teacher). Here are his answers:

**Question:** QUID AGIT, MAGISTER SPADIX? (What's up, Mr. Brown?)

**Answer:** No. I have always felt they suffocated me.

**Q:** QUID EST TIBI COLOR OPTIMUS? (What is your favorite color?)

**A:** I favor shades of red, white, and blue!

**Q:** QUID EST TIBI OPINIO DE IUGALIBUS HOC ANNO PEDIFOLIBUS? (What do you think of this year's varsity football team?)

**A:** I think all of them should be sent to Afghanistan!

**Q:** QUIS EST TIBI DISCIPULUS OPTIMUS? (Who is your favorite student?)

**A:** Naturally, I like history!

**Q:** AMASNE LUCIUM CUM IUSTINIANE FUIT MAGISTROS LUCTAROIS? (Do you like that Luke was a wrestling Captain with Justin?)

**A:** No doubt, we all do a super job.

**Q:** QUOT ANNOS TU IN MATRIMONIUM DUCTUS ES? (How long have you been married?)

**A:** About three months after Luke was born.

# FEATURES

## Shootin' the Breeze with Harpeth Hall

By Justin Hall

On February 1, 2002, the eighth graders from MBA and Harpeth Hall met at LaserChase out in Cool Springs for our first mixer of the second semester. It was a battle of marksmanship, pick-up lines, and the sexes. Aside from the laser shootin' fun, there was the big Dino-race moon-walk, the game room, and the almost non-existent food.

The laser shooting part of the mixer was better than expected. The arena was much larger than we all thought, and the "phasers" had a sight, which turned out to be a definite bonus. While supposedly a free-for-all, many gender-biased alliances were formed. Luckily, individuals prevailed. The second floor of the battle and the turrets which took away points added depth and dimension, making it a cut above the rest in the LaserTag world.

The Dino-race moon-walk was very interesting. We had several racers get lost, but everyone ended up on the other side. The course was not very challenging, just confusing. It involved turns and twists no one could follow. We got two free tries on this interesting contraption, and extra tickets could be purchased. This crazy obstacle course resulted in some very fun co-ed races, but the boys of MBA always prevailed.

The game room had many arcade style games, with car racing and

air hockey being people's favorites. While not many people brought money, those who did lost it quickly in these machines. The air hockey table really attracted Regen Jewett, who was rarely seen away from it.

Behind the game room was an area for snacking, but the "dinner," consisting of nine or so pizzas, went very quickly among about ten MBA students. Luckily, the moms were prepared with cookies, cokes, and water. (All the action took a lot out of us.) After spending a few hours with our Harpeth Hallian classmates, most of us went to the MBA varsity basketball game to watch them beat McCallie.

## Punk Music

### Straight Out of the Gutter

By Parkes Brittain

Let me start by saying that punk music is in no way, shape, or form what you see on MTV. Bands like Blink-182, Green Day, and Sum 41 are NOT punk. Punk music is found on labels like Epitaph and Fat Wreck Cords, not Warner Brothers or MCA. Punk music can be classified into various categories, such as hardcore, street punk, indie, pop punk, political punk, corporate punk, old

school, and so on. Bands like Black Flag, The Misfits, and the Dead Kennedys are classified in old school. Indie and pop punk usually go hand in hand. The lyrics often deal with relationships and youth, thus the name pop. Bands like MXPX make up this group. Corporate or fake punk houses are bands like Green Day and Blink-182. These are bands that have "sold out"; therefore, they are no longer punk. Bands like Pennywise and Bad Religion are representative of the biggest section of punk.. Their lyrics deal with many things, chiefly society.

In hardcore, you generally find stereotype punks: mo-hawks, studs, and spikes. Hardcore is loud, fast, and in my opinion, the best. Lyrics tackle issues such as day-to-day life in the gutter to politics. Bands like A Global Threat, Aus Rotten, and Rancid are in this category. Rancid is probably the most famous punk band: they have turned down million-dollar offers from major labels and chosen to stay on Epitaph, the label that gave them their start. Political punk is many genres compiled together. In political punk you can find hardcore to street punk. The only thing they have in common is their lyrics. Bands like Anti-Flag sing about the problems with the government and peace and have many anti-racism and anti-homophobic songs. Anti-Flag was recently mentioned in the *New York Times* as an anti-establishment band. The members shot back by asking,

"What is so anti-establishment about wanting unity?" Punk music continually grows and fades in pop culture. Many say that punk is dead, (like Disco dead) but as long as there is some kid out in the world in his garage banging on a guitar, punk will never die.



Anti-Flag



# FEATURES

## Rags to Riches

By Nick Anand

On February 13, the eighth grade basketball team began the quest for an HVAC crown. Our first game was against the sixth-seeded CPA Tigers. We started the game well, jumping out to a 20-6 lead. We maintained our lead throughout the game and even threw a long pass to Pierce Weber for a lay-up.



All-Tournament player  
Daniel Hightower

with the final score being 53-28. The second victim was top-seeded FRA. Earlier in the year, we beat FRA in an overtime thriller, 28-27. Both teams played well in the first half, but we began to pull away in the second half. We eventually defeated them 37-28 for just their second loss of the conference season. At this point, most people were very surprised we came this far, including the team itself. The championship game was against the Page Panthers. They had beaten us earlier in quite a pathetic performance on our part. They immediately scored a lay-up off the jump ball. We then scored eight unanswered points and held the lead for most of the game after that. Page put on an impressive comeback near the end, but Daniel Hightower scored a basket with eight seconds remaining to seal the win.

After the game, about twenty-five MBA students stormed the floor to congratulate us. Luke Brown, Daniel Hightower, and Scott Hearon received the honors of being named to the HVAC All-Tournament Team, capping off a great week for the Big Red. And last but not least, the team would like to congratulate Coach Marcus Bodie, whose superb coaching helped the team improve and achieve this unexpected championship.

20 Years, \$14,400

By Trey McMinn, Travis Brannon, and Weston Iler

Last week we called Mrs. Cleo for only \$15 a minute and asked her how the MBA seventh grade will turn up in 20 years. Finally after painstaking, money-burning hours we had everyone down . . . This is what we will be doing in 20 years.

P.S. We are pretty ticked because the call the Mrs. Cleo cost us \$14,400...should cover her lawsuit bill.

Chase Altenbern-Will be a mime in Paris

Michael Anderson-Will reveal that he is the dude that writes those "I SPY" books

Drew Andrews-Will be a girl's T-Ball coach

Tipper Austin-Will be forever existing in Mr. Tate's hall of scribedom

Adan Bajer-Will be the world's first white bouncer

Everitte Barbee-Will start a successful, world wide Mexican restaurant with his mom\

Jamie Berk-Will be the Eminem successor

Nick Berklacich- Will be the Prince of Belle Meade

Denis Bermudez0Will start a successful, world wid eMexican resaurant with his mom

Stockton Beveridge-Will but Pes.com and be the little cok puppet in the

future commercials

David Bolus-Will be a detective like Sherlock Holmes

Harrison Brwon-Will own the worlds largest pencil collection

Jackson Bull-Will be the first person to cross the Antarctic on a blow up shark in the dead of winter

Miller Bundy-Will be a yard gnome  
Quintin Buford-Will change his name to Q-Tip

Dylan Buroughs-Will be the next Snowbird on Channel 4

Charlie Burge-Will start a boy band easily compared to the Beatles and the Backstreet Boys

David Carlson-Will be a book critic  
Nicholas Caroland-Will invent camouflage underwear

Weston Cowden-Will have no job except for traveling the US

Matt Crook-Will drive the Oscar Meyer wiener mobile

Phil Cynn-A ballerina

Ben Daniel-Will be interior decorator

Kyle davis-Will bot get into any college and be totally unsuccessful because of his terrible grades

Harlean Dodson-Will take Mrs. Gulvas' advice and go to the clown school in Florida

Stephen Dolan0Will admit to the world that he has Walt Disney

Nicholas Caroland-Will

unsuccessfully run for president against Ralph Nader

Bill Eakin-We don't want to know

Will Earthman-Will fulfill his life-long dream and become a Hobo

Jeff Eberle-Will be a hair groomer

William Emfiner-Will be a monk

Andrew Esking0Will move to

Australia in order to become a

Kangaroo right's activist

Beau Evers-Will be a choo-choo train

conductor

Clayton Foster-Will fall into a sausage grinder

Chet Gormley-Will live a long life of

*Continued on page 7*

# HUMOR

## Spring Break on the Planet of the Apes

by Eric Hagemeyer

"We can't let the Monkey King ruin Spring Break for us!" and thus was the opening line of one of my favorite movies of all time, *Planet of the*



SPRING BREAK!!!!

*Apes*. A lot of people nowadays have been confused over the many versions of *Planet of the Apes*, including the incredible Clark Gable version made in the 1960s as a satire on his famous disco parties. However, the version that I shall be reviewing is the most recent one that hit theaters in the summer of 2001. I would have to say, of all the moments in this cinematic

masterpiece, the pinnacle would have to be the moment where the Spaceman crash lands on that planet and just starts wailing on this one monkey dude. I mean, it was the bomb! Just picture it. The guy is already paralyzed from the crash, but all of a sudden, he summons his mysterious voodoo mojo and beats him back to the stone age. (For real! The monkey really does end up somewhere else, but I was in the bathroom for that part.) I guess I should tell the whole plot though. See, this human guy, Space Mann (called Spaceman by his

friends from his days at flight school) takes a bunch of his friends to this place called Planet of the Apes for Spring Break because he heard they had really wicked beaches there. So anyway, they are all on the flight down, and while they talk about the girls they plan on meeting there, they get attacked by [ATTENTION: WE NEED MORE ARTICLES!!!!!!-ANGRY EDITORS] that

end up playing a key role in the guys' final stand against the monkeys. Now while all this is going on, the monkeys have their own Spring Break plans, including shouting, "Spring Break!!!!!" at random moments. As you can see, there is a lot of tension building up between them because for years, the humans and the monkeys blamed each

other for the great bee attack of '68. At this point things get pretty boring with the rodeo clowns and such, but we can skip over that.

### Something happens, I forget...

Now for the best part of the movie. Something happens, I forget, but the next thing I know the guys have crashed in a jungle on Planet of the Apes. Suddenly, the apes spring from the woods and start dancing around saying, "Kill the Pig! I mean the Guy!" After circling each



CHUG CHUG CHUG!!

other for several hours, they pounce on one another, and a fierce battle rages. As I mentioned before, the Spaceman is already paralyzed, but then he prays to his mysterious voodoo god

and summons super-human strength only seen in such great heroes as Skeletor and Hollywood Hogan (my personal favorites). After their big battle, a lot of other stuff happens, but the main thing is that they save Spring Break from the Monkey King who dies tragically at the hands of his mistress. All in all, *Planet of the Apes* was a great movie, and I hope that I have cleared up any misconceptions about it. Oh yeah, and everyone can fly. And it was animated.

(Rumor has it that Eric did not actually see this movie. Disregard everything.-Ed.)





# PROPHECIES

*20 YEARS from page 5*

NO homework because he has done it all in IPS

Treanor Granbetty-He will be a redneck hunter

Reuben Green-Will be Josh Dunn's assistant bouncer

Morgan Gregory-Will be a blind violinist

Brandon Harrington-Will be Santa Claus

Benton Harvey-Will dominate the world with Mr. Tate

William Herbert-Will be in Charlie's boy band

Mike Herron-Will be operating the sausage grinder that Clayton falls into

Nick Heyden-Will be a caterpillar

T.J. Hinton-Will be a multi-quillionaire and take Bill Gate's record of being the richest man in the world

David Howe-Will be a professional NFL quarterback

Jack Hudson-Will live in a tree for twenty years so no one will cut it down

Brian Hughes-Weston Iler-Will steal lollipops at the barber shop and sell them downtown

Jordan Jenkins-Will replace Vince McMahon and dominate Reuben and John Michael in a tag team tournament

Zach Juskiewicz-Will play with those dudes at Elmington Park on Sundays

Gena Kaboulov-Will be Designer/President/Vice President/CEO for Palm

Brendan Kiefer-Will live in his backpack

Matthew Kimball-Will reign as king of the herps

Sam Little-Will move to Guam after listening to Ms. Gulvas' stories

Jack Long-Innes-Will be the newest member of the Mystery Men

Russell Mack-Will join Gena in the Palm business

Patrick Manning-Will be a hip-hop superstar with such famous lines as "got dat ice?"

Guy McClure-Will join a rapper duo with Jamie Berk

Matt McCord-Will break his bones for money

Wes McKiethan-Will become a missionary in Madagascar

Trey McMinn-Will go into debt after spending too much money on

Walmart brand clothing

Tate McNeilly-Will finally turn in one of Ms. Gulvas' labs

Patrick Mehta-Will own a moped dealership

James Michael-Will be Emfinger's little helper

Todd Miller-Will be the muffin man that lives on Drury Lane

Sam Moon-Will be a clothes designer for FUBU

Carver Morgan-Will make it to the final round on Survivor

Rob Phipps-Will play on the New Jersey Devils, have no teeth, never

shave, and grow long hair with flies living in it

Mark Piana-Will be a Rob Phipps wannabe

Charlie Plageman-Will live in the Lazer Quest arena

Patrick Quinn-Will start a revolutionary weight loss program

Garrett Ramsey-Will be the world famous Soggy Hands Man

Zach Richardson-Will own a pastry store/gas station called Zach's Superb

Pastry Shop/Gas Station

Hunter Rogers-Will be a massage

therapist

Ben Satyshur-Will run the carwash at his dad's gas station

Scott Schwartz-Will be a Michael Jackson impersonator

Nathan Sears-Will get lost in the Bermuda Triangle while floating on a swim noodle

Miller Sherrill-Will be a punk

skateboarder

Markham Shofner-Will be the hobbit child at the circus

John Michael Simpson-Will be Reuben's WWF rival

Alex Smith-Will join the Baha Men

Gentry Smith-Will be a guidance counselor

Adam Speyer-Will be the guy on the Game Exchange commercial

Theron Spiegl-Will be Dr. Marro's successor

Nicky Spiva-Will replace Nick Carter in the Backstreet Boys

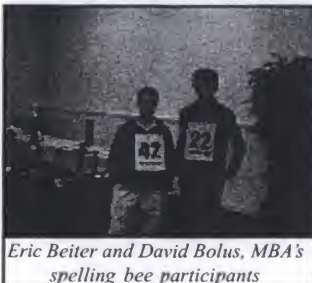
Kevin Thomas-Will be Jordan Jenkins' WWF tag team partner

Martin Thomas-Will be a "Shop 'Til You Drop" champion

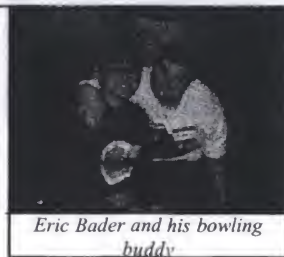
Jonathan Usry-Will be Martin's competitor

Tom Wiseman-Will be a hard core rocker

Tyler Yarbrough-Will be Alfalfa II



*Eric Beiter and David Bolus, MBA's spelling bee participants*



*Eric Bader and his bowling buddy*

# DEMERITS

## Battle of the Demeritacizers Dr. Marro and Mrs. Steele battle it out for the title of Demeritacizer of the Year

By Jeffrey Zager

**Q:** Do you consider yourself a demeritoholic?

**Marro:** Contrary to popular belief, giving demerits does not make my day.

**Steele:** No. It's not as if I enjoy giving demerits.

**Q:** What is your favorite demeritable offense?

**Marro:** "Your shirt's untucked."

**Steele:** It used to be "books astray"

but we don't have that anymore. I would have to say "failure to comply."

**Q:** Is it better to give two people five demerits or five people two demerits?

**Marro:** If the two people are Nathan Steakley and Hunter Armistead then it is better to give two people five demerits.

**Steele:** It is better to give five people two demerits . . . the more the merrier.

**Q:** Whom do you enjoy giving demerits to the most?

**Marro:** See my previous answer.

**Steele:** Reuben.

**Q:** Whom do you want to give demerits to the most?

**Marro:** My personal goal is to give everyone at least two demerits by the time that they have graduated from the Junior School.

**Steele:** I don't like giving demerits. (I think she's lying.)

**Q:** Do you feel that there is a rivalry between the two of you over who can give the most demerits?

**Marro:** No. She's my hero. All that I do is but a pale imitation of her abilities.

**Steele:** No. He has taken the lead and I will relinquish that honor to him.

**Q:** If you could give teachers demerits, would you?

**Marro:** Yes.

**Steele:** Possibly.

**Q:** Which teachers would you give them to and why?

**Marro:** Mr. Cooper, Mr. Thurmond, and Mr. Whitfield. There are too many reasons to name.

**Steele:** I would give them to people who aren't where they are supposed to be, when they are supposed to be there.

**Q:** How many demerits have you given this year?

**Marro:** Total . . . over 250.

**Steele:** Not that many . . . 15. (Once again, I think she's lying.)

**Q:** How many this week?

**Marro:** Not that many . . . 4.

**Steele:** None, but the day's not over.

**Q:** Do you have a weekly quota of demerits to fulfill?

**Marro:** Our [teachers'] contracts forbid us from discussing it.

**Steele:** No.

**Q:** What is the best day to give demerits and why?

**Marro:** Wednesday . . . then I can catch them off-guard.

**Steele:** Thursday . . . then they have a whole week to worry about whether or not I posted them.

## Working In Mr. Spiegl's Garden





# DEMERITS

## EIGHTH GRADE DEMERIT LIST

DATE OF DEMERIT HALL

Saturday, April 6th, 2002

STUDENT	OFFENSE	TEACHER	DEMERITS GIVEN	TOTAL TO BE SERVED	TOTAL SERVED
Elliott Nelson	Apologizing	Spiegl	5	5	0
Read Ezell	Bad acting	Morrison	4	4	0
Chase Cato	Does it matter?	Once again...	55	55	0
Jeffery Zager	Complaining	Steele	13	13	0
John Lee	Failure to comply	Thurmond	2	2	0
Houston Nelson	Excessive goodness	Popovich	2	2	0
Pete Burgess	Chasing squirrels	Russell	4	4	0
Jeremy Doochin	Oral diarrhea	Spiegl	4	4	0
Andrew Davis	Thermostatic ambiguity	Whitfield	2	2	0
Derek Pitman	Excessive stat keeping	Cooper	2	2	0
Schuller (3x)	Conspiracy	Whitfield	10 each	10	0
Tommy Corts	Filling hovercraft with eels	Woolsey	10	10	0
Jake Poteet	Dissin' Dixie	Brown	15	15	0
Michael Schumacher	Voodoo math	Woolsey	5	5	0
Jimmy Flanagan	Photographic decapitation	Bourland	1/photo	57	0
Eric Hagemeyer	Well he didn't have any...	Marro	5	5	0
Clark Connery	Smelly feet in study hall	Pettus	10	10	0
Lewis Brown	Inhilation of toxic fumes	Thurmond	5	5	0

**DEMERIT HALL IS IN WALLACE 26 AND BEGINS AT 8:00 A.M.**

Attendance to Demerit Hall is MANDATORY!!!

See Mr. Russ before 12:00 Friday if you have any questions.

## Memories of Our Grandparents

When Richard Speight, the actor who portrayed Warren Muck in HBO's *Band of Brothers* spoke in assembly on March 11, he asked MBA students to make the most of a rare opportunity they have right now. That opportunity is the chance to interview veterans of WWII while they are still with us. His passionate request reinforced an English assignment in which some seventh graders who read *The Road to Memphis* set in 1941 and *To Kill a Mockingbird* set in the 30s were asked to find out about their families' lives during this time period. After interviewing parents, grandparents, and great grandparents, some students heard stories they had never heard before and made discoveries about their own family history.

Quintin Burford learned that his grandfather's father died when he was twelve, and, as the oldest, he had to be the man of the house. Life was hard. They lived off the land and grew every vegetable they needed. He went to a very crowded one-room schoolhouse where there were not enough books to go around.

Stockton Beveridge noted that when the Japanese hit Pearl Harbor, his grandfather, now 85, was in medical school doing an anatomic dissection. He stopped his whole project so that he could listen to the radio and hear about the incident.

Zach Juskiewicz's grandparents were both involved in WWII. His grandfather was in the Polish Cavalry, and his grandmother was a Polish nurse. His grandfather was shot and later captured and taken to a prison camp. After a time he escaped, met up with his grandmother, and they fled to Argentina. Zach's father and uncle were both born while his grandparents lived in Argentina. After a few years the family moved to a ghetto in Rochester, New York, where his grandmother worked at Kodak.

Kevin Thomas interviewed his grandmother who remembered some tough and some good times during the Depression. Her family farmed. They grew crops and raised cattle, sheep, and pigs. She remembered wearing saddle shoes and full skirts, going to movies, listening to the jukebox for a nickel, and going to church socials and basketball games. During the war, gas was rationed, and she had to buy a ticket to get it. A tragic event occurred in her life when her husband, an Air Force fighter, died during combat.

Bill Eakin's grandfather, Hershel Tolbert, grew up in the 30s in Spartanburg, South Carolina. When WWII started, he was only seventeen, but he still enlisted. He was assigned to the USS *Gunston Hall* in 1942 and fought in nine invasions where the *Gunston Hall* would release smaller ships that would empty out on the land and come back for more supplies.

Kyle Davis's grandmother, whose father became the president of a company that loaned money to farmers who were hit hard by the Depression in Arkansas, remembers that expectations for girls at the time were that girls should be "ladylike," a term that meant being nice, obedient, and being able to dance well. His grandmother lived in Arkansas, and like Alabama in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Arkansas, at the time, suffered from "Maycomb's usual disease," racism. When she was nine years old, there was a large court case in which a black man was being prosecuted for supposedly sexually harassing a white girl. The man was found guilty, and although he was going to be sent to the electric chair, a mob of infuriated white men lynched the man before he went to the chair.

Drew Andrews' grandfather was about nine years old when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. There were no televisions, and news of the war was scarce. He used to go out into the woods and play soldier, a game where they dug trenches and threw mud bombs at each other. His father did not join the army because he worked on the railroad, and that profession was already considered vital in the war effort.

Jamie Fletcher's grandparents remembered their cars. His great grandmother drove a Chrysler Fluid Drive, the first car without a gear shift while his great grandparents drove a Buick Marquette, an Oldsmobile, and a Studebaker. His grandfather drove a model A Roadster convertible, one of the coolest cars of the time period. None of these cars had air conditioning, and it was rumored that if a towel vent would open above the windshield, air would flow through the car, cooling it off. On a trip through Iowa, his grandfather's family attempted this cooling technique along with putting a twenty-five pound block of ice on the car floor. They ended up with a steam bath and burned up all the way back home to Chicago.

Miller Sherrill's paternal grandfather served in the Navy during WWII on the USS *Roosevelt*, an aircraft carrier. His maternal grandfather went to sign up for duty but received a 4F, meaning he was rejected. The reason was that he had a broken

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ear drum when he was a child. He then got a job at the DuPont Company making fabric used to make parachutes for the war.

T.J. Hinton's grandparents on his dad's side remember an awful riot that occurred in Columbia, Tennessee in the 1940s. Several people both black and white were killed, but many did not notice the riot as it happened at night. The United States Armed Forces came in and helped subdue the angry protestors.

Theron Speigl's grandmother remembered some of the hardships of the time like having little food and each child getting only two pairs of shoes per year. Women worked in factories, and it was the first time that women in the family worked outside the home. There was much support for the war. She also mentioned some activities and items they enjoyed like softball, swimming, scooters, yo-yos, and tops.

Harlan Dodson's grandfather on his mother's side was a captain in the infantry and saw action in the Battle of the Bulge. His grandmother worked on the Manhattan Project and then was a secretary for a general keeping peace in Berlin. His grandfather and grandmother met in Berlin and later married.

Nicholas Caroland's great grandfather, as a teen, fixed his car up so it had headlights that could be turned on by the flip of a switch on the back of the car and created a bypass to the muffler. The car was not very fast, but when his grandfather was a teenager, he got his father's car and would use it to drag race on old country roads. To scare his opponents away, he would run the rear lights on, and the front lights off and then he would bypass the muffler so the car would be very loud. His grandfather won many races and scared many people this way. In researching his family during this time period, Nicholas also discovered valuable information from an earlier time. His great great grandfather received a letter from Sam Houston that said on the front of the envelope, "I am leaving this manuscript with you to be opened only when my honor requires it." One morning they decided to open the letter, so they went to the bank and got the letter, along with others, and took them home. The night that the letters arrived at the house, the house burned down, and the letter was never opened.

Matt Crook's grandmother told him about his family's Oldsmobile and that a person could drive when he or she learned how.

You often hear about them in the movies, heroes of the past. There is a hero in Guy McClure's family. He was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart for extreme valor and bravery in combat. The shrapnel of a bullet remained in his spine until the day that he died. He was paralyzed from the waist down, but he was a soldier, even in a wheelchair. He was strong and brave. He was wounded while stationed on a small island in the Pacific, while serving as a radio messenger during World War II. To his fellow soldiers he was Staff Sergeant Francis Compton Wallace, but to Guy, he will always be his great uncle, Dockie.

Phillip Grover Simpson, John Michael's grandfather, recalls one day crossing a bridge over a river as his battalion made their way into a small town. The bridge was being fired on by the enemy, which was probably hoping to keep them from being able to cross. Suddenly the sound of a missile coming close to them caused them all to scatter for cover. They knew they were going to be hit. Just as the missile was about to hit, his grandfather quickly dove under a jeep. After the unfortunate explosion, he lay motionless and felt a warm liquid oozing down his head. He thought he had been hit and was dying. After a long pause, he managed to reach his hand up to touch the back of his head. When he brought his hand back around, he saw his fingers were slick with dark oil. Luckily, the oil tank of the jeep had been hit, and my grandfather was saved. One of the men with him was killed and several were badly wounded. He said that while fighting was often very much around him, he never came as close to being hit as he did when he was under the jeep.

Just a few days before the war was over, his grandfather's job was to travel in a truck, driving along the road until Germans open fired on them. Then they would stop the truck and return fire until the Germans were either killed or captured. He did this job for only a few days because the war ended. He was in Austria when the fighting stopped. Within a few days of the war's end, his grandfather saw many of the prisoners that were released from the concentration camps. They were walking because there wasn't enough transportation for them all. "They were in such bad shape," he recalled, "some of them were nothing but skin and bones and I didn't know how they could even walk."

After the war his grandfather was decorated with the bronze star for "services above and beyond the call of duty." John Michael is proud of his grandfather's service, and although it is sometimes emotional for him to remember people and events during this difficult time around the world, his memories remind us of the courage, honor, and bravery of our servicemen, both past and present.

## A Wise Man Once Said...

**Bracey Wilson** – My dad always says, “Keep trying, son, and you will eventually get it.” I know that I should be persistent and stay on task. My mother always tell me, “Never give up because everyone makes mistakes once in a while.” I know that if I never give up, I will be whatever I want to be.

**Toby Simpson** – The advice that I remember most is my dad’s telling me: “Always stay ahead in whatever you do; the worst thing that can happen is to fall behind.” I agree with him.

**Reese Smith** – My dad always said: “If you work hard and hustle in practice, it will carry over into your everyday life.” He said that establishing a work ethic early will help you throughout your life, whether in your school work or business life.

**Brad Kennedy** – My parents often give me advice on how to study, whether it is needing more light so my eyes won’t hurt, or making flash cards to study vocabulary.

**Nick Power** – I used to have a big temper on the golf course, but my father taught me simply to calm down and take it one shot at a time. This advice does not apply just for golf, but for anything in life.

**Will Whitson** – My mom used to tell me: “Take two dollars to school just in case.” Being the stubborn guy I am, I didn’t take any money to school, and half-way through third period, my one-inch stick of a pencil broke in two.

**John Rocco** – My mother and father give me advice about cleaning my room. They say that if there is a fire in the house, I would probably trip over all my CDs and movies and that I would probably be killed.

**Nicholas Marziano** – My dad’s favorite words of advice would most likely be: “Kid, don’t do anything stupid.” Those wonderful words of instruction, along with sayings, such as “Don’t do something that I would not do,” have greatly influenced my life.

**Wheat Hotchkiss** – Some advice can be amusing; for example, “Choke up on the bat.” Once my mom told my little brother to do this when we were playing baseball, and he immediately stuck his head up in the air and started trying to choke. (He did not hurt himself.)

**August Bohlinger** – Every morning when my dad drops me off at school, he gives me advice. Whether it’s “Have the best day yet,” or “Don’t forget to wear your helmet,” he always leaves me with a bit of wisdom.

**Will Harris** – When I was eleven, I was going through a hard time. My dad had just died, and I was feeling like my life was going down the drain. My grandmother told me, “Try to move on and make things better,” and “It will get easier.” I eventually found out that my grandmother was right and things did get better.

**Terrell McWhirter** – My grandparents told me that success always comes with trial and error, that you can never skip a step to achieve what you want. They want me to know that I can do anything if I concentrate on my goal.

**Jeff Newman** – My grandfather has always told me to stay away from the girls until I get older. He says this to me almost every time I see him. I do not totally agree with this advice.

**Ben Bellet** – At the beginning of my eighth-grade year, I was having trouble in Algebra I Honors. My dad gave me some valuable advice: Focus. To help me “focus,” he proceeded to take away all of my privileges to help me zero in on math. Although I was not exactly crazy about the idea at the time, my math grade has improved, and I have retained my privileges.

**Jeffrey Zager** – My father gives useful advice. For example, he taught me that if my mom is out of town, then I only have to make the bed the day that she gets back. This advice has saved me a lot of time and effort.

**Nick Anand** – My mother always told me, “Everything always happens for a reason, and usually it is for our good.” Her favorite quote when she wants me to study is: “Wasted time will never return.” As much as I hate to admit it, she is right, and

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it is not good to keep putting off things until the very last second to finish your work.

**Boone High** – The best advice I have ever been given is from my father. He told me that the best way to do well and be happy is to work hard and never give up. Seeing as how my father is happy and has done fairly well, I figure that must be pretty true because he is the hardest working man I know.

**Eric Bader** – My sister Jill tells me every time we are in the car together not to smoke. Sure, it is bad for your health, but it is also pretty disgusting. I truly am never going to smoke because of this wonderful advice, and I thank her for constantly telling me not to smoke.

**Bobby Goodrich** – My dad has taught me that whenever I get stressed out, I should take a deep breath and try to think positively.

**Will Barge** – My mother told me that two wrongs do not make a right. She tells me this when my brother plays a prank on me, and I do something for revenge. I have lived by this rule, and I have almost never retaliated when my brother has done something to me. I wish my brother would see that two wrongs do not make a right, but he obviously does not!

**Buck Curley** – I got advice from my father to stay out of the kitchen when my mama is cooking or cleaning. I have learned from experience that he is very right about this advice.

**Max Hinchion** – My mom has been telling me “not to count my chickens before they hatch” for quite a while. Although it may sound pointless, after I think about it, I realize what it means. This advice was first brought up a few years ago when a friend of mine said that he would buy my Nintendo game. I told my mom to buy me a new game and that I would pay her back. The next day my friend did not want the game, and I spent the next weekend working off a debt toward my mom.

**Luke Brown** – When I was in about the third grade, I wanted to play little league football, but my dad would not let me. He told me that he was afraid that if I played for too long, I would get worn out by the time I was in high school and would not want to play. That advice probably saved me from quitting football at an early age.

**Andrew Wiser** – The piece of advice I received from my father was to act like yourself and be yourself, and if certain people do not like you, then it is their fault and they are the ones missing out.

**Clayton Lainhart** – “Hey, Clayton, think about who you are, man.” This is what my dad says to me every time I go to a party. He always tells me to remember where I am and not to do anything stupid. He also told me never to eat anything bigger than my head.

**Spence Hobson** – My grandfather told my father, who told me, “You can do anything that you’re willing to set your mind to,” and “Where there’s a will, there’s a way,” and “Don’t force anything. If it isn’t going to fit, stop!”

**Regen Jewett** – Back when I was five and trying to learn how to ride a bike, I was having trouble. I skinned my knee and went inside to quit, but my grandmother said something in German. I don’t know what she said, but it sounded good to me. After the German proverb, she told me to give it three more tries. The first time she pushed me down the hill, my feet started peddling, and I learned how to ride my bike thanks to the German proverb that my grandmother told me.

**John Lee** – My grandmother gave me advice about how to invest my money. She told me early on that I should not squander my money, but I should save it and put it in a bank. I have followed this advice, and now I have a savings account that is becoming quite lucrative.

**Erik Swanson** – My father gave me one important piece of advice. He said to take advantage of your opportunities now because they will only pass you by. I have not really taken advantage of every opportunity that I have been offered, but I have tried many of them.

**Mitchell Williams** – My dad told me to never relieve myself into the wind. Before he gave me this advice, when I was young, I urinated into the wind and the rest of the day wasn’t so pleasant.

# 7TH GRADE SCENE

## Comin' Out of the Corner The 7th and 8th Grade Mixer

By Chase Altenbern

May I ask you one thing? Does standing in a corner help you get girls? How about dancing stupidly by yourself while standing in the corner? Well, if it does, it sure wasn't working for seventh graders on the evening of March 1. Only after the first half of the mixer was over did people begin to migrate towards the center of the room. The dance seemed to be over once the few people who danced began dancing with Harpeth Hall seventh graders. There were some good times outside of the dancing though. One of my favorites was how Ben Daniel and Quintin Burford ran around pouring water on people's pants when their backs were turned and making it look like the victim had peed in his pants. This prank caused the floor to eventually

become wet, and I watched someone fall down and say, "Hey man!, the floor is wet!" (This person may have been Quintin.) Another was the "What is that!" and pointing in the sky while girls looked up blindly. I talked to Miller Sherill, whose personal insight on the mixer was, "The jammin' DJ was whipping out some sick scratches on those scratch pads!" Although I disagree personally, I think the DJ was not the best because he wouldn't play "Live and Let Die," which I requested eight times. The best entertainment I saw was Scott Schwartz's dancing. Scott will definitely be the next Michael Jackson, and if you have not seen any of his moves, just ask him one day to "break it down, Scotty!" Guys were constantly tucking and then untucking their shirt tails as Dr. Marro walked by. My associates and I took a poll from people on how they liked the mixer. Your choices were good, bad, awful, or god-awful. The poll was not worth putting in the newspaper because the god-awful was overwhelmed with seventh grade votes. Well besides that, the few brave souls who went up and asked a girl to dance (whether a success or not) did not have as much fun as the guys in the corner. At the next mixer, we should definitely mix up the boys and the girls a little bit better because mixing is the point of a mixer, isn't it?



"Gentlemen, no line, no lunch!"

## 7th Grade Theater Broadway Bound

by Chase Altenbern

During theater class this winter, Stockton Beveridge, Theron Spiegl, Jordan Jenkins, and Chase Altenbern created a Broadway-production-to-be. They called it *Bankrupt on the Embankment: It's Impossible*. The play was called *Bankrupt on the Embankment: It's Impossible* for one reason: a bank was robbed on an embankment. The play



Future Tony winners

consisted of a bank robbery and a wild gun chase through the streets of downtown Banktown. Stockton and Chase portrayed two troubled policemen, while Theron and Jordan acted the roles of the two bank robbers. A quotable quote from Stockton's monologue is: "I had two shots, one a .5 caliber, and the other hard whiskey." The class had fun creating this production. Everyone should take theater with Mr. Morrison because it is a blast (and Mr. Morrison is British). To all you future actors, start practicing to get a good part in this production when it goes to Broadway!



# PET PIZZAZZ



*Will Camarata's dog Bo Bondeau*



*Max Hinchion's dog Bosco*



*John Lee's dog Slippers*



*Everitte Barbee's iguana El Nino*



*Tom Abernathy with Tux and Major*



*Theron Spiegl and Casey*



*John Michael and Sugar*



*Mr. Woolsey with his dog Princess*

## ***Black Hawk Down: the Movie, the Book, and the Person***

By Kevin Seitz

When Mark Bowden set out to write *Black Hawk Down*, he was surprised to find that in the military archives of Washington D.C. the stories of the soldiers who fought in October of 1993 were not recorded. At the time, CNN broadcast the same photos of the killed pilots being dragged through the streets over and over, and the 19 were reported dead, but little else was known by the majority of the public. Bowden went on to interview countless people who had experienced the now well-known fight that occurred in Mogadishu, Somalia. In fact, the novel is taken almost straight from first-person accounts. For all

who do not know what happened, here is a brief synopsis. On October 3, 1993, in Mogadishu, Somalia, in Africa, U.S. Army Rangers and the army's elite top-secret commando unit, Delta forces, were dropped in by helicopter, on their seventh mission of the sort, into the heart of the city, with the intention of capturing leaders of the Habr Gidr clan. The head of the clan, Mohamed Farrah Aidid took all of the food being brought into the city by the UN, allowing 300,000 people to starve in the area. The US wanted to stop the starvation by taking out Aidid's top officers, in hopes that eventually he would be captured and allow the food to go to those who needed it. The mission was supposed

to take no more than a half an hour, but due to poor intelligence, and even worse communications, many of the soldiers were trapped in the city until early the next morning, taking fire from the thousands of Somali militia who intended to keep the US from accomplishing their goals. The story is that of their fight for survival against the entire city,



who were all out to kill them. They would have gotten out rather unscathed had two Black Hawk helicopters been shot down by rocket propelled grenades. The commanders immediately ordered all of the troops to regroup at the crash sites, further complicating their leaving the city, and leaving them prone to more enemy fire; thus the movie gets its name as a radio operator reports the hit: "We have a black hawk down." In the end 19 American soldiers were dead.

The novel is set up very simply, beginning as the troops board the helicopters to enter the city. The author then begins to focus on one person at a time, telling of his background, and allowing the reader to become acquainted

with each soldier. The reader soon notices that if any feeling the soldier had, or anything that the soldier saw during the battle is mentioned, then he will survive; however, if only the view that others had of a man is given, the acquaintance is made to gain empathy for the soldier to make his death all the more dramatic. Besides the in-depth look at each soldier given, the entire

book is blood, guts, more blood, and gore, with a few brief understatement of the extreme heroism of those involved. The book is factual, stating only what happened and offering no commentary by the author himself. Each bullet which hit a soldier is described in detail, where it entered and left the man, and how it affected him. As one gets deeper into the novel, it becomes

like a video game; bad Somali guy with gun steps from behind wall, and we blow his head off. So, understandably, the novel is not one to be read lightly. From a history standpoint, however, the novel is extremely interesting, and the reader cannot help but be amazed and awe-struck by the great heroism displayed by all of those involved, as well as the disbelief that such a tragedy could ever have occurred. You must realize that while it is terrible that 19 American soldiers died, thousands of Somalis died as well, and like a video game, one forgets that the Somali blood-loss was far greater, deceptively greater than that of the American soldier.

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diers, because the life of the Somalis begins to seem almost dispensable as more and more die. Bowden tries to show both sides of the warfare, however, by concentrating for several chapters on various citizens within the city, militia members, and ordinary citizens. Overall it is an eye-opening look at modern warfare.

The movie, based very closely on the book, is a fine movie in itself, and when viewed solely as an action packed, American-troops-blow-the-bad-guys-to-bits movie, it accomplished its goal well. However, if viewed against the book, one can see both how the director went about transforming the book into the movie, as well as the way in which Hollywood always seems to ruin a perfectly good book, with their scenes that never happened and omission of vital details. Filmed in a ghostly blue-green mist, the movie condenses pages of explanations in the book into a single quote in the movie, or a small side note. The Americans are portrayed as far more powerful, and fewer casualties are shown in the movie than in the book. In the film, bullets are constantly flying, but few Americans are shown getting hit, whereas in the novel, it seems every second another soldier is hit in the leg or arm. Also, in order to create a hate within the viewer for the Somalis, they are shown as ruthless blacks who appear as if they belong more in the ghetto than in Somalia where the people are much more Arabic. The militia also seem quite organized, cleverly ambushing American troops with large missile launchers, whereas in the novel, the Somalis are described as being very unorganized, simply sticking their guns around corners and spraying bullets, but then again, Hollywood needs to make it seem like the Americans died fighting formidable opponents. The movie attempts to have the same character development as the novel, by concentrating its attention on a few central men, but this development seems almost too forced and too unnatural, with each character stating clearly what his beliefs and views are in the midst of a seem-

ingly ordinary conversation, which brings me to yet another problem. There is little if any real conversation in the movie. All that is said between characters is either strategic planning, or short statements that are clearly for the sole purpose of developing characters, giving background information, or advancing the plot. There is no normal, conversation. In order to make the movie more moving, a lone piano or violin plays

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***“The movie  
is nothing more  
than war, plain  
and simple war”***

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for most of the calm parts in a vain effort to try and draw tears from the audience. The movie does a wonderful job of displaying the utter chaos of the situation, yet it is shown so well that the viewer often becomes confused and lost with the constant shooting, screaming, and blood-loss. The movie is nothing more than a great war movie, but if that is what you seek, then look no further. The movie is nothing more than war, plain and simple war, without any forced love story like in *Pearl Harbor* to distract attention from the action.

Chief Warrant Officer Michael Durant was the pilot of the second helicopter to be shot down, the only one to survive the crash, and after enduring a compound fracture in his femur, a shattered cheekbone, a fractured back, and minor bullet wounds, was held prisoner by Aidid for twelve days. MBA was fortunate enough to have Durant come and speak at the recent Father Son Dinner, as he made his speaking tour across the country. As described in the novel, Durant is a compact man, short, fit, and dark haired. He was part of the 160th SOAR, the Night Stalkers, who chauffeured the most elite soldiers into some of the most dangerous spots on Earth,

and had flown with the Night Stalkers in the Persian Gulf War and the invasion of Panama. He grew up in Berlin, New Hampshire, but moved to Tennessee when he began training at the Night Stalkers' base in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. As a celebrity, he had the difficult job of choosing a speech that was both an inspirational speech about leadership, and the qualities of a gentleman that MBA strives to instill in its students, and combine it with his own experiences, because without the experiences he has had, he would not be famous, and so he would be speaking at MBA. He did a fine job with his speech, delivering a very concise, yet interesting speech, which was quite a relief to all who attended.

There is much to be learned from the mistakes made in Somalia on October 3, 1993, because the tragedy is inexcusable for the most elite, powerful, and technologically advanced nation in the world. There has been much finger pointing as to who needs to take the blame, and the movie even tries to downplay how much of a failure the entire mission was by noting that Aidid did die in 1996, but omitting the fact that shortly after the tragedy, American forces were removed from Somalia by President Clinton. Most likely the reason the incident is such a tragedy, beyond the deaths, is simply what a father of one of the dead soldiers said: He tried to believe his son died for a cause and a purpose, but the US government backed off, afraid because 19 soldiers died. The soldiers had willingly given their lives in order to accomplish their goal, but they died in vain, since their goal was never entirely accomplished.



Mark Bowden - Author of *Black Hawk Down*

# BACK PAGE

## Top Ten Wayne's World Quotes

By Alex Holt, Clark Connery, and John Fay

10. "How come when you kill a man in battle, it's called heroic, but when you kill a man in the heat of passion... it's called murder?"
9. "So you're selling watermelons then?" "Nope, we've just gotta make sure there's plenty of 'em stacked, just like these here chickens."
8. "It's like when you come home Friday night and you do your homework right, so the rest of the weekend it's just party..." "No, I like the way I said it better"
7. "If she were French she would be called 'Le Renard' and she would be hunted with only her cunning to protect her."
6. "Wait... Calgon? Ancient Chinese Secret huh...?"
5. "Who's the old lady?!" "That's my old lady."
4. "Hi... I'm in Delaware..."
3. "Did you ever find Bugs Bunny attractive when he dressed up and played girl bunny?"
2. "An old man fashioning a kayak out of a log..."
1. "But the shopkeeper and his son were a whole different story altogether. I had to beat them to death with their own shoes. Nasty business really..."

## Horoscopes

By Michael Schuller and Eric Hagemeyer

- Scorpio**- Stinging arachnids and Latin pop quizzes in your future. Beware of all that is sleep inducing (even if it's just math class).
- Cancer**- Mr. Whitfield's class especially crazy. Seventh graders may be victims to rash of Dr. Marro demerits.
- Pisces**- Icathoydic girls haunt you. Beware of [ATTENTION! WE NEED ARTICLES!!!!!! -ANGRY EDITORS]. Others of this kind may haunt you.
- Taurus**- Birthday fast approaching. Avoid fun.
- Gemini**- Do not flammer your dicramulescent restenarian with incragulations. Mermaids in your sandwich.
- Leo**- Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!
- Aquarius**- Expect a visit from a strange bat boy.
- Sagittarius**- You just might wake up tomorrow, but beware of tight pants.
- Libra**- Whatever you do, don't get in your car!
- Aries**- La bolsa esta caliente! Sostengala por la parte superior. Abrala lejos de su cara y cuerpo.
- Capricorn**- Friends will believe you to be injured but in actuality you will be slightly dead.
- Virgo**- All's well that ends well. All good things must come to an end.



"An Absolute Morphodite"

## Congratulations to the Junior Honor Society Inductees

Eric Beiter  
Lewis Brown  
Clark Connery  
Aaron Dye  
Kaskas Everest  
Read Ezell  
Bobby Goodrich  
Trey Kendall  
Clayton Lainhart  
John Lee  
Nick Power  
Will Profit  
David Reynolds  
William Schuller  
Kevin Seitz  
David Wheeler  
Martin Wieck  
Andrew Wiser  
Jeffery Zager

### TOP OF THE HILL STAFF:

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Production Manager	Michael Schuller
Assistant Production Manager	John Lee
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Sports	Eric Hagemeyer
Photographer	Jimmy Flanagan
Entertainment	Tommy Corts
Faculty Advisors	Mrs. Bourland
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